

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 10, 2009. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 to 17, 21, 27 and 33 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 11 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,159,190 (Perry) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,391 (Farrell). Claims 5 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Perry and Farrell, and in further view of well known prior art. Claims 15, 21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Perry and Farrell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,492 (Iwase). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during a telephonic interview regarding the subject application. During that interview, Applicant's representative requested clarification from the Examiner regarding the application of Perry. Specifically, Applicant's representative requested that the Examiner explain the application of Perry in regard to the feature of a partial setting screen that includes a display of the sheet type that is applied to the entire document. During the interview, no agreement was reached regarding the claims. Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments to the claims and these remarks constitute the entire substance of the interview.

The present claims concern setting printer settings by a printer control apparatus using an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data and a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected. In one

aspect, the partial setting screen includes (i) a second designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a third designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied and (iii) the type of sheet designated in the first designation field of the entire setting screen displayed in the first displaying step. According to this aspect, a user can set a partial setting attribute in the partial setting screen while confirming the sheet type set in the entire setting attributes as the type of sheet designated in a first designation field of an entire setting screen because the type of sheet set for the entire document is included in the partial setting screen.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method executed in an information processing apparatus which has a printer driver to generate print data which a printing apparatus can process. The method includes a first displaying step of displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data, wherein at least a first designation field to designate a type of sheet is included in the entire setting screen; a second displaying step of displaying a partial setting screen including (i) a second designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a third designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied and (iii) the type of sheet designated in the first designation field of the entire setting screen displayed in the first displaying step; and a generating step of generating the print data to print a print material in which the entire print attribute and the partial print attribute are reflected.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Perry and Farrell, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the printing control method of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in

combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the feature of displaying a partial setting screen that includes (i) a second designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a third designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied and (iii) the type of sheet designated in the first designation field of the entire setting screen displayed in the first displaying step.

During the above-referenced interview, the Examiner stated that the Examiner viewed the display shown in Fig. 5 of Perry as an entire setting screen where the “Stock Tab” could be selected to display a paper type applied to the entirety of a document. The “exception pages” of the document to which different print attributes could be applied are displayed by selecting the tab “Special Pages” 312. The page numbers of Perry’s “exception pages” are then shown in column 402 of Fig. 5 while the attributes of the exception pages are shown in the display of Fig. 6A. In the display of Fig. 6A, a “Stock” tab can be selected to show paper stock information for the exception pages including the type/weight of the stock. The Examiner contended that this display was analogous to Applicant’s display of a type of paper in Applicant’s partial setting screen. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Perry, the “Stock” tab is used to display a type of paper stock for the exception pages and only for the exception pages. In the present claims, the type of sheet designated in the first designation field of the entire setting screen is displayed in the partial setting screen. That is, when the partial setting screen is selected and displayed to a user, the partial setting screen displays information about the type of sheet of the entire document, not just of the partial document as does the display of Fig. 6a of Perry. (See the specification of the subject application, page 18, first full paragraph.) By displaying the type of sheet setting for the entire document to the user, a user can set a partial setting attribute in the partial setting screen while

confirming the sheet type set for the other entire document. Such a technical effect cannot be achieved by Perry as only the type of paper used for the exception pages is displayed.

Applicant has reviewed Farrell and submits that Farrell merely discloses setting of a sheet type. However, Farrell fails to disclose or suggest displaying a partial setting screen that includes (i) a second designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a third designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied and (iii) the type of sheet designated in the first designation field of the entire setting screen displayed in the first displaying step as featured in the claims. Therefore, Farrell does not supply that which is missing in Perry.

In light of the deficiencies of Perry and Farrell as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 11 and 13 are directed to an apparatus, a system and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7, 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the \$130 one-month extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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